

evasive comments. We will remember his refusal to denounce or even comment on the antitrust case against Microsoft and his unwillingness to make clear his position on protecting Columbia and Snake River dams. I challenge the Vice President again today to tell us plainly whether he supports this administration's assault on two of Washington State's economic crown jewels.

Do you, Mr. Vice President, support the Justice Department's antitrust action against Microsoft or not? And do you, Mr. Vice President, support the efforts by national environmental groups to destroy dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers or not?

We in the Northwest await the Vice President's answers, and you can be sure that so long as silence and evasiveness carry the day, I will continue to ask these questions.

RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM D. LACKEY, JR.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on February 28, 1999, the Senate said farewell to a valuable employee. William D. "Bill" Lackey, Jr., Journal Clerk of the Senate, retired after 34½ years of service to the Senate.

Bill arrived at the Senate's doorstep on September 1, 1964, from North Carolina. He served the Senate in a number of important capacities, including Assistant Executive Clerk, Bill Clerk, Assistant Parliamentarian, Assistant Journal Clerk, and from 1987 to 1999, as Senate Journal Clerk. During the last 12 years, Bill was responsible for the production of the Senate Journal. This role required that he sit at the dias here on the Senate floor to record the minutes of the Senate's legislative proceedings. His became a very familiar face to us all.

Bill Lackey has been the source of wise and good counsel to many over the years. We commend him for his outstanding service to the Senate and the Nation, and wish him Godspeed as he returns to the beloved foothills of his native Shelby, NC.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 10, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,652,343,384,711.69 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-two billion, three hundred forty-three million, three hundred eighty-four thousand, seven hundred eleven dollars and sixty-nine cents).

One year ago, March 10, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,525,631,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-five billion, six hundred thirty-one million).

Five years ago, March 10, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,546,801,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred forty-six billion, eight hundred one million).

Ten years ago, March 10, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,737,909,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred thirty-seven billion, nine hundred nine million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,914,434,384,711.69 (Two trillion, nine hundred fourteen billion, four hundred thirty-four million, three hundred eighty-four thousand, seven hundred eleven dollars and sixty-nine cents) during the past 10 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 540. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the Medicaid Program.

H.R. 800. An act to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

The message also announced that the House had passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 447. An act to deem as timely filed, and process for payment, the applications submitted by the Dodson Districts for certain Impact Aid payments for fiscal year 1999.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 882. An act to nullify any reservation of funds during fiscal year 1999 for guaranteed loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for qualified begging farmers or ranchers, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 540. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the Medicaid Program; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 540. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the Medicaid Program.

H.R. 800. An act to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 585. A bill to require health insurance coverage for certain reconstructive surgery; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 586. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to limit the value of certain real property that a debtor may elect to exempt under State or local law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 587. A bill to provide for the mandatory suspension of Federal benefits to convicted drug traffickers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 588. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for retirement security amounts funded by employee social security payroll deductions, to establish the Protect Social Security Account into which the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit budget surpluses until a reform measure is enacted to ensure the long-term solvency of the OASDI trust funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 589. A bill to require the National Park Service to undertake a study of the Loess Hills area in western Iowa to review options for the protection and interpretation of the area's natural, cultural, and historical resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 590. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for certain hardrock mines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 591. A bill to authorize a feasibility study for the preservation of the Loess Hills in western Iowa; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 592. A bill to improve the health of children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 593. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase maximum taxable income for the 15 percent rate bracket, to provide a partial exclusion from gross income for dividends and interest received by individuals, to provide a long-term capital gains deduction for individuals, to increase the traditional IRA contribution limit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 594. A bill to ban the importation of large capacity ammunition feeding devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 595. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a graduated response to shrinking domestic oil and gas production and surging foreign oil imports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 596. A bill to provide that the annual drug certification procedures under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 not apply to certain countries with which the United States